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Letter dated 17 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government and as promised in my statement today, I have the honour to forward to you the joint statement on the demilitarization of Kisangani, signed in Kampala on 15 May 2000 (see annex).

I would be grateful if this statement could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Joseph W. **Mutaboba**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-43681 (E) 170500

Annex to the letter dated 17 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Joint statement on the demilitarization of Kisangani

The Governments of Uganda and Rwanda agree on the following:

1. Rapid implementation of the 8 May 2000 Joint Declaration on the Demilitarization of Kisangani.

2. To withdraw their forces from Kisangani under the auspices of MONUC-JMC monitoring team. UPDF will withdraw to Bafwasende and Banalia while RPA will withdraw to Lubutu and Ubundu. In no case will withdrawn forces remain closer than 100 kilometres from Kisangani.

3. Prior to MONUC exercising complete and neutral control over the demilitarized zone around the city and airports of Kisangani, UPDF and RPA will each retain two infantry companies of 108 personnel each, making a total of 432 officers and men.

4. All heavy weapons (11.5 millimetre and above, including RPGs) will be withdrawn from Kisangani and its environs to the aforementioned locations (Lubutu and Ubundu for RPA and Bafwasende and Banalia for UPDF).

5. UPDF and RPA will maintain one infantry platoon of 36 personnel each at Bangboka and one infantry platoon of 36 personnel each at Simi Simi airport, drawn from the aforementioned companies.

6. UPDF and RPA will maintain joint checkpoints at Kisangani strategic locations: Tshopo Bridge, Kabondo Junction, Lubutu-Bafwasende Junction, the ferry crossing point between Commune Gauche and Kisangani Centre Ville, Lindi Bridge and any other point within the demilitarized zone that may be identified at any time during the implementation of the demilitarization exercise. MONUC is to patrol all the routes between Kisangani and the new points of deployments. Each checkpoint will be manned by a section of 12 RPA personnel and 12 UPDF personnel.

7. The patrolling of Kisangani will be conducted jointly by RPA and UPDF in coordination with MONUC.

8. UPDF and RPA will reactivate the Joint Command Centre (JCC) to be composed of two officers from each force who will do liaison at the airports and with MONUC.

9. The principle of demilitarization of Kisangani will equally apply to all of the Congolese rebel groups, namely: MLC, RCD-ML, RCD as well as armed civilians. MONUC will in consultation with the aforementioned Congolese rebel forces identify and designate appropriate areas of deployments of these rebel groups outside the demilitarized zone.

10. The Governments of Rwanda and Uganda and their rebel allies will immediately cease inflammatory media campaigns against each other.

11. The Governments of Rwanda and Uganda will invite Special Representative Morjane and MONUC Force Commander Diallo to accompany the Army

Commander of UPDF and the Army Chief of Staff of RPA on an assessment visit to Kisangani as soon as it is practicable.

12. The Governments of Uganda and Rwanda agree to work constructively with the RCD, MLC, RCD-ML to ensure their adherence to the letter and spirit of demilitarization of Kisangani and this joint statement.

13. Upon the decision by MONUC-JMC that MONUC presence is sufficient to guarantee the security of Kisangani, all other military forces will withdraw from the city in accordance with the commitment to the full demilitarization of Kisangani and all other modalities previously agreed to with MONUC and the JMC.

14. In the spirit of expeditious implementation of this understanding, Uganda and Rwanda propose to make available to MONUC the four companies which will have remained in Kisangani to be deployed under their mandate should MONUC fail to raise a force within 60 days (two months).

15. This understanding may be reviewed by both parties whenever it is deemed necessary.

Done at Kampala, this 15th day of May 2000.

Signed by:

Odongo Jeje
Major General
Army Commander, UPDF

Kayumba Nyamwasa
Brigadier General
Army Chief of Staff, RPA